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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Invests in Renovations at Two Primary Schools in Bitola and Novaci

USAID, as a part of the U.S. mission in Macedonia, is investing in educational development and school renovations throughout the country. At 'Sveti Kiril I Metodij' Primary School in Bitola, windows and doors were replaced. In fact, custom-made wood-frame windows were installed, in keeping with the historic importance of the building. At "Slavko Lumbarkovski" Primary School in Novaci, the windows, doors, floors and roof were renovated. The completion of these renovations was celebrated with ribbon-cutting ceremonies at both schools on September 24th. These projects involved successful partnerships between the municipalities and the school community.

"These investments will allow both current and future students of these schools to benefit from an improved learning environment" said USAID DOC Officer Sharon Kellman Yett. "But this work will also contribute to improved energy efficiency and cost savings which the municipalities can then reinvest in quality education."

The renovation component of the Primary Education Project supports the creation of better learning environments and decentralization of the responsibility for school facilities to municipal governments. The project also works to increase access to and use of information technology and to improve the quality of math and science education in Macedonian primary schools.

The Primary Education Project, implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), works with all public primary schools in Macedonia. The project seeks to improve the quality of instruction and increase students' employment skills. The overall goal of the USAID Education Program is to strengthen education in Macedonia and to support decentralization efforts as Macedonia seeks entrance to the European Union.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.